

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MARSHALL DIVISION

EFFECTIVE EXPLORATION, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ATLAS BARNETT, LLC,

Defendant.

C.A. No. 2:15-cv-440-JRG-RSP

(Lead Case)

DISCOVERY ORDER

After a review of the pleaded claims and defenses in this action, in furtherance of the management of the Court's docket under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16, and after receiving the input of the parties to this action, it is ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

1. Initial Disclosures. In lieu of the disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1), each party shall disclose to every other party the following information:

- (a) the correct names of the parties to the lawsuit;
- (b) the name, address, and telephone number of any potential parties;
- (c) the legal theories and, in general, the factual bases of the disclosing party's claims or defenses (the disclosing party need not marshal all evidence that may be offered at trial);
- (d) the name, address, and telephone number of persons having knowledge of relevant facts, a brief statement of each identified person's connection with the case, and a brief, fair summary of the substance of the information known by any such person;

- (e) any indemnity and insuring agreements under which any person or entity carrying on an insurance business may be liable to satisfy part or all of a judgment entered in this action or to indemnify or reimburse for payments made to satisfy the judgment;
- (f) any settlement agreements relevant to the subject matter of this action; and
- (g) any statement of any party to the litigation.

2. Disclosure of Expert Testimony. A party must disclose to the other parties the identity of any witness it may use at trial to present evidence under Federal Rule of Evidence 702, 703 or 705, and:

- (a) if the witness is one retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony in the case or one whose duties as the party's employee regularly involve giving expert testimony, provide the disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B) and Local Rule CV-26; and
- (b) for all other such witnesses, provide the disclosure required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(C).

3. Additional Disclosures. Without awaiting a discovery request,¹ each party will make the following disclosures to every other party:

- (a) provide the disclosures required by the Patent Rules for the Eastern District of Texas with the following modifications to P.R. 3-1 and P.R. 3-3:

P.R. 3-1(g): If a party claiming patent infringement asserts that a claim element is a software limitation, the party need not comply with P.R. 3-1 for those claim elements until 30 days after source code for each Accused Instrumentality is produced by the opposing party. Thereafter, the party claiming patent infringement shall

¹ The Court anticipates that this disclosure requirement will obviate the need for requests for production.

identify, on an element-by-element basis for each asserted claim, what source code of each Accused Instrumentality allegedly satisfies the software limitations of the asserted claim elements.

P.R. 3-3(e): If a party claiming patent infringement exercises the provisions of P.R. 3-1(g), the party opposing a claim of patent infringement may serve, not later than 30 days after receipt of a P.R. 3-1(g) disclosure, supplemental “Invalidity Contentions” that amend only those claim elements identified as software limitations by the party claiming patent infringement.

- (b) produce or permit the inspection of all documents, electronically stored information, and tangible things in the possession, custody, or control of the party that are relevant to the pleaded claims or defenses involved in this action, except to the extent these disclosures are affected by the time limits set forth in the Patent Rules for the Eastern District of Texas; and
- (c) provide a complete computation of any category of damages claimed by any party to the action, and produce or permit the inspection of documents or other evidentiary material on which such computation is based, including materials bearing on the nature and extent of injuries suffered, except that the disclosure of the computation of damages may be deferred until the time for Expert Disclosures if a party will rely on a damages expert.

4. Protective Orders. The Court will enter the parties’ Agreed Protective Order.

5. Discovery Limitations. The discovery in this cause is limited to the disclosures described in Paragraphs 1-3 together with:

- a. Interrogatories: Defendants may serve up to 15 common interrogatories on plaintiff, and each defendant may serve up to 10 individual interrogatories on plaintiff. Plaintiff may serve up to 15 common interrogatories on defendants, and may serve up to 10 individual interrogatories on each defendant.

b. Requests for Admission: Defendants may serve up to 20 common requests for admission on plaintiff, and each defendant may serve up to 10 individual requests for admission on plaintiff. Plaintiff may serve up to 20 common requests for admission on defendants, and may serve up to 10 individual requests for admission on each defendant. Parties may propound an unlimited number of requests for admission solely for the purpose of document authentication.

c. Depositions

(i) An expert who submits a report on invalidity, validity, enforceability or unenforceability, may be deposed by the opposing side regarding that report for 7 hours. An expert who submits a report on infringement, non-infringement, or damages addressing one or more defendants may be deposed by the opposing side regarding that report for a total of 7 hours plus an additional 3.5 hours for each additional defendant remaining in the lawsuit addressed in the report (i.e. if two defendants are addressed by the same report, each side shall have a total of 10.5 hours).

(ii) The defendants collectively as one side may depose each named inventor for up to 7 hours.

(iii) Limits on depositions will be governed by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

(iv) The parties may take depositions on written questions of custodians of business records for third parties.

d. Expert Witnesses: Each side is limited to 7 expert witnesses

(e) For purposes of this section (section 5—discovery limitations), any affiliated plaintiffs count as a single plaintiff and any affiliated defendants count as a single defendant, and “side” means a party or a group of parties with a common interest.

(f) Any party may later move to modify these limitations for good cause.

6. Privileged Information. There is no duty to disclose privileged documents or information. However, the parties are directed to meet and confer concerning privileged documents or information after the Status Conference. By the deadline set in the Docket Control Order, the parties shall exchange privilege logs identifying the documents or information and the basis for any disputed claim of privilege in a manner that, without revealing information itself privileged or protected, will enable the other parties to assess the applicability of the privilege or protection. Any party may move the Court for an order compelling the production of any documents or information identified on any other party’s privilege log. If such a motion is made, the party asserting privilege shall respond to the motion within the time period provided by Local Rule CV-7. The party asserting privilege shall then file with the Court within 30 days of the filing of the motion to compel any proof in the form of declarations or affidavits to support their assertions of privilege, along with the documents over which privilege is asserted for *in camera* inspection.

7. Signature. The disclosures required by this Order shall be made in writing and signed by the party or counsel and shall constitute a certification that, to the best of the signer’s knowledge, information and belief, such disclosure is complete and correct as of the time it is made. If feasible, counsel shall meet to exchange disclosures required by this Order; otherwise, such disclosures shall be served as provided by Federal Rule of Civil

Procedure 5. The parties shall promptly file a notice with the Court that the disclosures required under this Order have taken place.

8. **Duty to Supplement.** After disclosure is made pursuant to this Order, each party is under a duty to supplement or correct its disclosures **immediately** if the party obtains information on the basis of which it knows that the information disclosed was either incomplete or incorrect when made, or is no longer complete or true.

9. **Discovery Disputes.**

- (a) Except in cases involving claims of privilege, any party entitled to receive disclosures (“Requesting Party”) may, after the deadline for making disclosures, serve upon a party required to make disclosures (“Responding Party”) a written statement, in letter form or otherwise, of any reason why the Requesting Party believes that the Responding Party’s disclosures are insufficient. The written statement shall list, by category, the items the Requesting Party contends should be produced. The parties shall promptly meet and confer. If the parties are unable to resolve their dispute, then the Responding Party shall, within 14 days after service of the written statement upon it, serve upon the Requesting Party a written statement, in letter form or otherwise, which identifies (1) the requested items that will be disclosed, if any, and (2) the reasons why any requested items will not be disclosed. The Requesting Party may thereafter file a motion to compel.
- (b) In addition to the requirements of Local Rule CV-7(h) and (i), an opposed discovery-related motion must include a certification that an **in-person**

conference involving lead and local counsel for all parties to the discovery dispute was held.

- (c) Counsel are directed to contact the chambers of the undersigned for any “hot-line” disputes before contacting the Discovery Hotline provided by Local Rule CV-26(e). If the undersigned is not available, the parties shall proceed in accordance with Local Rule CV-26(e).

10. No Excuses. A party is not excused from the requirements of this Discovery Order because it has not fully completed its investigation of the case, or because it challenges the sufficiency of another party’s disclosures, or because another party has not made its disclosures. Absent court order to the contrary, a party is not excused from disclosure because there are pending motions to dismiss, to remand or to change venue.

11. Filings. Only upon request from chambers shall counsel submit to the court courtesy copies of any filings.

12. Proposed Stipulations by the Parties Regarding Discovery:

- (a) The parties agree to consult with each other before scheduling third party depositions.
- (b) The parties agree that, unless good cause is shown, the parties shall not be required to log attorney-client privileged communications or work product protected materials dated on or after April 2, 2015.
- (c) The parties agree to serve, and to accept service, by email to all counsel of record.
- (d) The parties agree to the modified e-discovery order attached as Exhibit 1.

SIGNED this 4th day of September, 2015.


ROY S. PAYNE
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE